

Message Text

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TAGS: SCUL EG
SUBJ: TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT

REF: (A) STATE 154986, (B) CAIRO 10880

SUMMARY: MINCULTURE UNDERSEC ORABI CONFIRMED MINCULTURE HAS AGREE TO SAN FRANCISCO REQUEST HAVE TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT GO THERE AFTER NEW YORK. HE HAD NOT FOCUSSED ON NEED FOR AMENDMENT U.S./EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT, BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO DO SO IF NEEDED. WOULD LIKE METROPOLITAN CONTINUE MANAGEMENT FOR SAN FRANCISCO TRIP. WOULD ALSO LIKE STATUS REPORT FROM METROPOLITAN AND TRANSFER OF SOME FUNDS AFTER EACH CITY IS VISITED. ALSO WANTS CLARIFY ANONYMOUS DONATION. HOPES HOVING OR METROPOLITAN REPRESENTATIVE WILL VISIT EGYPT SOON TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS AS WELL AS FUTURE HELP MET MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM. WILL GO TO U.S. HIMSELF, IF NECESSARY, BUT WOULD PREFER MET REP COME HERE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN EFFORT OBTAIN SOME DEFINITIVE ANSWER TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTTEL A, CAOR MET WITH FUAD AL-ORABI, FIRST UNDERSEC MINISTRY OF CULTURE, JULY 7, TO DISCUSS SUBJECT. ORABI FIRST DELIVERED HIMSELF OF A DIATRIBE AGAINST FORMER DG ANTIQUITIES GAMAL MOUKHTAR, WHOME HE ACCUSED OF A MULTITUDE OF SINS. HE CONFIRMED THAT MOUKHTAR IS OUT AS DG OF ANTIQUITIES. NEW HEAD HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY
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NAMED, BUT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE SHAHATA ADAM. WE DO NOT KNOW HIM WELL, BUT BELIEVE HE WAS IN BUBIAN MONUMENTS OFFICE. ORABI CONFIRMED THAT MINISTER EL-SAWI HAS AGREED TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT WILL GO TO SAN FRANCISCO FOR TWO MONTHS AFTER IT CLOSES IN NEW YORK. (FEW DAYS EARLIER MOUKHTAR HAD CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR THAT ANTIQUITIES BOARD, AT MINISTER'S REQUEST, HAD APPROVED

THIS.) ORABI SHOWED CAO TELEGRAM FROM MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO OFFERING \$100,000 FOR EGYPTIAN MUSEUM CONTINGENT UPON SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS BEING WORKED OUT. TELEGRAM ALSO SAID CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO WILL INVITE MINISTER OR OTHER HIGH-LEVEL PERSONALITIES TO COME TO SAN FRANCISCO FOR FESTIVITIES AT TIME OF EXHIBIT. ORABI STATED REPRESENTATIVE OF SAN FRANCISCO HAD TELEPHONED MINISTRY LAST WEEK CONFIRMING OFFER, ADDING THAT IAN WHITE OF SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM WOULD ARRIVE CAIRO O/A JULY 21-22.

2. ORABI APPEARED NOT LEAST BIT CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE HARD FEELINGS ON PART OTHER U.S. CLAIMANTS SUCH AS BOSTON AND UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA MUSEUM. HE STATED EXTENSION OF TIME IN U.S. SPECIFICALLY FOR SAN FRANCISCO AND THAT EXHIBIT WOULD GO TO WEST GERMANY IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS. MINISTRY WOULD CANCEL PLANS FOR SHOWING IN CANADA. (WE UNDERSTAND CANADIAN AMBASSADOR PROTESTING THIS RENEGING ON COMMITMENT.)

3. ASKED WHETHER AMENDMENT TO U.S./EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT REQUIRED, ORABI HAD CLEARLY NOT FOCUSED ON THIS ASPECT. HE WAS NOT CERTAIN THIS WAS NECESSARY, BUT LEFT MATTER TO US. SINCE AGREEMENT MENTIONS ONLY SIX CITIES, WE ASSUME AN AMENDMENT IS NEEDED FOR SEVENTH CITY TO COVER INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY PURPOSES. APPRECIATE ADVICE.
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4. AGREEMENT BETWEEN ANTIQUITIES BOARD AND METROPOLITAN SPECIFICALLY STATES SIX-CITY TOUR. ORABI ASSUMED METROPOLITAN WILL CONTINUE IN ITS MANAGEMENT ROLE WITH SEVENTH CITY. WHEN CAO POINTED OUT METROPOLITAN HAS SAID IT DOES NOT WANT TO CONTINUE MANAGERIAL ROLE BEYOND PRESENT SCHEDULE BECAUSE OF OVERTAXED RESOURCES, ORABI EXPRESSED HOPE METROPOLITAN COULD STILL BE PERSUADED TO DO SO. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD WELCOME A VISIT FROM HOVING OR A RESPONSIBLE METROPOLITAN REPRESENTATIVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO HELP CLEAR UP MANY ASPECTS THAT ARE FUZZY NOW. IF NECESSARY, HE WOULD GO TO U.S. HIMSELF TO MEET THE METROPOLITAN PEOPLE, BUT HE PREFERRED THAT THEY COME TO CAIRO.

5. ORABI ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET MUCH IN WAY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ON TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT INCOME. HE REQUESTED OUR HELP IN GETTING STATUS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS ON THE EXHIBIT. IN HIS VIEW, GOE SHOULD HAVE A REPORT AFTER EACH CITY AND A TRANSFER OF SOME FUNDS FROM THE PROFITS FROM SHOWINGS IN THAT CITY. THIS IS SECOND MATTER HE WOULD

LIKE TO WORK OUT WITH HOVING OR METROPOLITAN REP.

6. ORABI ALSO ASKED THAT ANONYMOUS DONATION FOR CLEAN-
ING AND REPAIRS OF CAIRO MUSEUM BE CLARIFIED. MINISTRY
WANTS DONATION VERY MUCH AND IS GRATEFUL FOR IT, BUT HE
WOULD LIKE TO KNOW SPECIFICALLY THE TERMS OF ITS USE AND
AGREED TERMS FOR DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS. HE CLAIMED
MOUKHTAR HAD MADE ALL SORTS OF PROMISES AND COMMITMENTS
THAT WERE NOT ADMINISTRATIVELY SOUND. MOREOVER,
MOUKHTAR'S RECORDS ARE IN SHAMBLES. HE WOOULD LIKE TO
WORK OUT A CLEAR PROCEDURE FOR USE OF THE DONATION.
CLEARLY, MINISTRY SEES PLEDGE AS FIRM DONATION. CAO
POINTED OUT NEITHER EMBASSY NOR DEPT INVOLVED IN FINAN-
CIAL ASPECTS OF TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT OR DONATION. THESE
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MATTERS MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH HOVING OR METROPOLITAN
REPRESENTATIVE.

7. FINALLY, ORABI SAID HE WOULD LIKE A CLEAR PICTURE
OF HOW METROPOLITAN CAN COOPERATE IN THE FUTURE OF
MUSEUMS IN EGYPT, AND SPECIFICALLY THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM.
THIS IS ANOTHER SUBJECT HE WANTS TO DISCUSS WITH
METROPOLITAN REP.

8. ASSUME WHITE OF SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM WILL KEEP
EMBASSY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS ON NEW PROJECT. IF
AMENDMENT TO U.S./EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT REQUIRED, AS WE
ASSUME IT IS, PLEASE PROVIDE DRAFT TEXT WHICH WE CAN
THEN NEGOTIATE WITH MINISTRY. WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL
HAVE COPY OF ORIGINAL U.S./EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT ON
TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBIT, SINCE IT WAS SIGNED IN WASHINGTON
AND WE HAVE NO COPY HERE.
EILTS

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